

## ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

**Meeting Minutes** – Weds., Feb 8, 7:30PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

In attendance: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, John Ellis, Mara Vatz and Tim Lecuivre

1. **Approve January meeting minutes.** Postponed because no quorum.

2. **DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)**

- **Tree removals** – is there a list of addresses to be able to adjust inventory? *Tim has it on paper right now, and will get it to us (John) when it's final. ~ 20 trees were taken down and some pruning continues. Outside help is being looked into (Mike R) to help take down and prune now*
- **Tree Preservation Bylaw** – *Despite the bylaw going into effect as of Sept 1 2016, it was Feb 1 2017 that the Town website had been updated with the official posting of the tree Bylaw and that paperwork re: bylaw became available for pickup at the Building Dept. Tim had a conversation with Rick Valareli (one of the building inspectors) about getting the Bylaw on the Builder 'Check List'. Tim is going to follow up and see if it's being done (MEA will email him to remind him). ATC has mailed out 75 letters introducing bylaw to builders; a total of 300 builders on the list will receive the letter by end of March.*
- *impacts on DPW, interactions with Building Dept.: Old Colony road builder said: "Didn't know about bylaw, wasn't on check list, wasn't on the Town website".*
- **Tree hearing(s)** – *none*
- **Grant submission** – *no news on grant*
- **Spring tree order** – *Trees have been ordered*
- **Robbins Farm Park improvements** – *Tim talked to the Parks Dept. Tim is on the list to be contacted once the plan is 25% done.*
- **St Paul's cemetery** – *no reply yet*
- **Arbor Day planting efforts** (location, timing etc):
  - A. **Planting demo:** *Tim considering doing a demonstration tree planting along the ball field along N Union St near Thompson School. (Arbor Day is Fri. April 28<sup>th</sup>) Need to decide if it can be planned for after school on Fri April 28 to include school kids. Maybe it can be a kickoff of the Community Canopy Program (tree adoption effort made possible by the MacEachern bequest)*
  - B. **Community Canopy Program:** *Tree Committee idea of offering trees to residents of the Hardy and Thompson school districts (the area identified as having the thinnest tree canopy in town) using the MacEachern bequest. Considering Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> Residents would pay a % of the cost of the trees that Tim would buy from the wholesale nursery. .... there is room in the cemetery to heel in trees. Species suggested are white Cornus florida – dogwood. Or Tim suggested hybrid Pink Stella Dogwood a cross of Cousa Dogwood. Ed can deliver trees. We would advertise on Google Groups, on Facebook and within the Advocate, Arlington List, we would provide in our announcement of the 'pilot' proram, the background of the bequest and that we're trying a pilot program (25 trees for ~ \$2,500).*

- C. *We need approval to spend the money from Comptroller / Town Manager Comptroller will be contacted by Ed or John on how to get Tim the money for buying the trees.*
- D. *We need to know the process of how we get the residents money into the Trees Please fund and how we would keep track of the residents (Google form – on ATC website)*
- *Tree inventory summer work with interns? – did not discuss*
- *Emily Forshay of the Arl Garden Club contacted Tim, wants him to do a tour of interesting trees in Town. Two suggestions were discussed: 1. a tour of Town Hall Gardens or 2. a loop incorporating Academy, Irving, Jason St.*
- *Eversource is bringing in a very large substation by truck through Arlington in the next couple of weeks. Will be done at night. Transformer is 20 feet tall, 13 feet long, VERY heavy. Coming from Medford highland Ave in Medford, turns into River Street, to Bates, to Mass Ave, to Mystic on to the town of Winchester. Stanley Tree Service is going to prune some trees in prep.*

### 3. Publicity

- *Facebook, Googlegroups (Eliza will share some FB articles to Googlegroup).*
- *Advocate article Article introducing Tim and riding around with him, will be done in the Spring. For now, Mara is going to submit a piece on tree planting. She will meet with Tim next Weds to go over the why, when, what of planting.*
- *Article presenting the new bylaw – Mary Ellen suggested we wait a little bit on introducing the Tree Bylaw until it's been in process a little.*
- *Powerpoint tree presentation; targeted outreach – ATC contacted Town Permanent Building Committee, Townwide School Committee will be approached. Parks and Rec. is on the list of Commissions to reach out to.*

### 4. New Business

- *DPW annual report? Tim does not know if the DPW has written or submitted an annual report that goes to Town Meeting. It would be great if Tree Committee could submit one with this year's accomplishments. Eliza will send Tim a copy of a draft. Tim will ask Mike R. if he has done one.*
- *New members - Town advertisement, Advocate advertisement. No discussion*
- *Correspondence - none from residents*
- *World Café – Ecofest 2018 planning. Thursday 2/23 Lyons Hearing Rm, dinner 6:30–7pm, 7–9pm discussion. Tim will attend. Also, “Civic day”, 10-2pm, Mar 22.*
- *Stationery update suggestion – website, contact, mission and Tree Logo. The Arlington Tree Committee, Board of Selectmen-appointed Town Committee promoting the protection, planting and care of trees in Arlington*
- *Correspondence recommended to:*
  - *Mass DOT took down several dead trees on the border between the Concord Turnpike and Spring street, eliminating much of the evergreen buffer between the abutting neighborhood and Rte 2. Letter from ATC could request new evergreen plantings be considered for this area.*
  - *Another letter should be written to the DCR re: area by the path that runs along the bike trail from Alewife to Mystic Vally Pkwy along Alewife Brook. Newly planted trees have not survived.*

**Next meeting:** Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, March 8.